MAY 2025 **U/ID 31529/UCR1B**

Time : Three hours Maximum : 75 marks

PART A — (10 × 2 = 20 marks)

I. Answer any TEN questions in 30 words each.

1. When did the British East India Company first arrive in India, and what was the name of the ship and the captain involved in this initial landing?

2. What was the primary goal of Macaulay's Minute on Indian Education, and what shift in educational focus did it propose?

3. What did Radhakrishnan emphasize as a foundation for "creative internationalism" in his essay "A World Community"?

4. How does Amartya Sen connect India's argumentative tradition to its democracy and social progress in "The Argumentative Indian"?

5. Identify the two contrasting forms of beauty presented in Aurobindo's poem, "Tiger and the Deer". What does the poet suggest about the ultimate fate of each?

6. What mood does the poet, Vikram Seth, create in his poem "Eating Wheat"? Provide one image from the text that helps establish this mood.

7. In Mahesh Dattani's play, "Dance Like a Man," the narrative uses both a present-day and a flashback timeline. What is the purpose of this narrative structure, and what does it reveal about the characters' past?

8. In Mahesh Dattani's play, "Dance Like a Man," what is the central reason behind Ratna's manipulation of her husband's career, and how does this impact their relationship?

9. In R.K. Narayan's novel "Swami and Friends", how does Swami's father influence his academic life? What is the outcome of the final exam?

10. Explain the significance of the "paper boat and ant" event in R.K. Narayan's novel "Swami and Friends" in two lines.

11. In R.K. Narayan's "Swami and Friends", why does Swami run away from home? How is he found?

12. Name two prominent Indian Diasporic writers and mention one notable work of each.

PART B — (5 × 5 = 25 marks)

II. Answer any FIVE questions in 200 words each.

13. Why did Thomas Babington Macaulay propose the "Minute on Indian Education," and what were its lasting effects on Indian society?

14. How does Amartya Sen's "The Argumentative Indian" argue that debate is central to Indian identity, and why is this idea important today?

15. How does Manohar Shetty's "Fireflies" use the fireflies as a metaphor for the loss of innocence?

16. How does Mahesh Dattani's "Dance Like a Man" explore the conflict between tradition and modernity through a family of dancers?

17. How does R.K. Narayan's "Swami and Friends" portray the universal experience of childhood while also setting it firmly within the unique social and political context of colonial India?

18. How does the character Jairaj in "Dance Like a Man" represent the societal pressures on men?

19. Sketch the character of Rajam in R.K. Narayan's Swami and Friends.

PART C — (3 × 10 = 30 marks)

III. Answer any THREE questions in 500 worth each.

20. Trace the evolution of Indian Writing in English from its origins in the colonial era to its emergence as a distinct and globally recognized literature. How did major historical events, such as the introduction of English education, the Independence movement, and globalization, shape its themes, styles and identity?

21. How does Radhakrishnan's "The World Community" argue for a world government and why does he believe a moral revolution is essential for it?

22. How does Sarojini Naidu's "Summer Woods" use the contrast between city life and nature to explore escapism, and how do her spiritual allusions elevate this desire into a quest for purity?

23. How does Lata, in Mahesh Dattani's "Dance Like a Man", serve as a foil to her parents? Analyze how her modern sensibilities and struggles with artistic integrity highlight the generational shift in attitudes toward art, tradition and personal freedom.

24. Examine the role of the school in the novel. How does it serve as a site of both oppression and rebellion for Swami and his friends?